Daily & Eagle

How Forest Fires Have Devastated Many Western Homes.

MICHIGAN HAS SUFFERED MOST.

Strange Phenomena-Green Trees and Wet as Bad Sometimes as the Autumn Months. Remarkable Conflagrations - Sublimity and Horror Combined.



sent an apparent exception to many well known laws of nature. Things burn in such a fire made to bus where else or at any other time. Green alders, half dried grass, damp leaves, thickets of at under brush, at the sea son when they are fullest of sap, burn like light wood. A

red elm or water beech (two trees very common in the Ohio valley) may be cut down, sawed into foot lengths, split into fine sticks, and then, if not well seasoned in advance, put into the best draught stove in the country, that fuel will deaden a good fire. The elm or the water beech will wither and crackle before a forest fire, then smoke a few min utes, and then burst into brilliant flame like a dry pine. Old foresters say they have seen fire start in dry timber, and once started they could not observe that its course was checked in the slightest degree by a belt of green timber. Strangest of all, many of the orst conflagrations, especially in Michigan and adjacent regions, have occurred early in May-at the very time when the timber is fullest of green sap MANY THEORIES OFFERED.

Naturally such a phenomenon as this pre-pents a mystery, and old settlers in Michigan and the Ohio valley have offered several thecries. The most generally accepted one is that a peculiar condition of the atmosphere always precedes a forest fire-without it there would be no such fire—there is an unnatural absence of moisture in the air, pre-paring the timber to burn. And certainly many of the related phenomina support this theory. Another theory is that when the fire is once well started in dry timber, the smoke and hot air driven in advance of it ere a little problem is offered to science, viz., that water, in some of its forms, is an actual stion. Certain inflammable oils



GIVING THE ALARM.

mixed with steam, the whole atomized and delivered in a delicate spray, produce the most intense heat. Perhaps the green timber which burns with such astonishing fury may supply just that combination.

lut this is speculation; the actual phenomand which precede and accompany such fires as have lately devastated the custom part of Michigan are too alarming to leave the ob-server in a philosophic mood. There is first an awful stillness in the air and an oppressive heat, after which the sky changes by slow degrees to a most unnatural coppery bus. It is at times an ominous yellow, then purple and then appallingly dark; the sun by day is of a most alarming bloody red; the moon by night is equally lurid. After this come pulls of hot wind and then a smoke that makes the day almost as dark as night; flakes of soot and ashes fall, and soon after the distant roar of the advancing flames is heard. The alarming phenomena, however, may be many hours in advance of the fire, for the smoke often travels in dense clouds for twenty miles ahead. Then one may see the women and children running in advance of the con-flagration, and wagons loaded with household stuff whirled along by almost stifled out, everybody! Turn out, and we can stop it horses, the driver whipping them frantically at the state road!" towards the nearest large pond or creek or open piece of plowed land.

"FIGHTING FIRE " Sometimes, however, the fire advances with singular slowness, and the people gather to fight it by "burning back"-that is, they foll the timber towards the advancing fire till a considerable belt is cleared, and then set the fallen mass a-fire. This is only practicable when the season is quite dry, but it is a curious fact that the fire thus kindled



often creates a breeze in the direction opposite that which drives the main fire, and thus by the time the latter arrives too large a space a cleared for it to sweep across. While there are destructive fires in some section every in the United States been rendered notable tion, viz.: 1848, 1854, 1881 and 1887, and this year's start in Michigan gives promise of adding another to the list. The great Chl-cago fire of IST was nearly contemporary with destructive burnings in Wisconsin, and ten years later the destruction in that state

and Michigan was appalling.

The region in Michigan which has suffered most extends for some eighty miles through most extends for some eighty miles through the counties bordering on Lake Huron, and fires settled down on Chicago and, aided by a soft only was the original Hurby such as fa-

vers great fires, but after each destruction the brush which sprung up suddenly was still more combustible. In the second great fire there it was estimated that one thousand lives were lost, and in seven sparsely settled counties. An eye witness of that fire says: "The wind was so strong that people in flight were blown off their feet and the fire flew through the woods as fast as a horse's ordi-nary gallop. There was no escape for any one surrounded in the woods, as everything was so dry. In ten minutes from the time it struck the farm there was not a vestige of house, barn or stables left, and the cinders MICHIGAN HAS SUFFERED MOST.

Strange Phenomena—Green Trees and Wet

Leaves Burn at Certain Times—May Is

house, barn or stables left, and the cinders were smiling through the air on to the next farm. Nobody could have got up water enough to do any good, even if all the wells and creeks had not been dry.

After it was over I saw men, women and children on logs in the woods dead. A good many got into holes in the ground and cellurs and

> FIRES OF 1884. In this time of terror the people of one town, Richmondvilla, were driven into Lake Huron, and the water being shallow for some distance from the shore they escaped. Most of the people of that section were recent immany from Canada, and the suffering for a few days was very great,

holes in the ground and cellars

wells, but they were nearly all smothered."



but the country contributed liberally to their aid. In 1884 there were forest fires in many places, especially in the mountains of Pennsylvania, and by some strange convergence of wind currents the smoke traveled in a narrow column across New Jersey and dark-ened the city of New York. These were also unseasonable fires, if the phrase be allowable, as they occurred in late April and early May. On the afternoon of May 2, a bank of smoke so dense as to obscure the sun rolled over Jersey City and the Hudson and then into the narrow streets, where the smell of burning the mass clearly account the sidely ing pine was clearly perceptible. A sickly greenish pallor overspread the sky and the reflection of the setting sun on the water made it seem like a river of blood.

The fires that year were made memorable by the hairbreadth of several crews, who had to run their trains for many miles propage the greenest timber for burning, and Tthrough burning forests when it was impossible to see ahead more than a few rods. the anthracite region about Pottsville, Pa., the fire raged for a week, destroying an immense area of valuable timber. At Jermyn the powder mills were fired and exploded, and in the timbered region many lives were lost. Many people took refuge in the swamps and buried themselves to the neck in mud and water, and these escaped, as the smoke did not drift along the ground.

If not drift along the ground.

The fires of 1848 in the Ohio and Wabash had been secreted in a house in a disvalleys destroyed much property, but no lives were lost, as there were belts of timber along the creeks which would not burn, and the fire was confined chiefly to the ridges. One who was a child then, living some 'bree miles east of the Wabash, gives this account: "Sunday afternoon the very air seemed affame, the weather was so hot and dry, but the sky was clear. My brother and I had gone into the deep hollow and were splashing in the creek, when we heard a call from the



BURNING BACK. fire!' It was our older sister, who was crying as she talked. We ran up the bill and looking to the west saw the whole sky rapidly turning to an inky blackness, a dense column of smoke rising and whirling as it rose, driving towards us, and before it great flocks of birds of various kinds, flying low. While we gazed in terror a neighbor came galloping out of the woods with a cry: 'Turn

AN INDIANA BLAZE

"This was two miles to the westward, and my father, judging it was already past that road, said: 'I'll try to save the house and barn, anyhow,' and burried for his team. He and the hired hand hastily rigged the big breaking plow, and with nervous haste began the job called 'plowing round'—that is, turning up as broad a strip as possible of fresh earth in the stubble field, so the fire would not burn across it. As luck would have it, the fire turned south, and by night all the ridge us one blaze—three miles long and two miles wide-and along the edge of it were all the men in the township raking the dry stuff into the fire to save the fences. To my childish eyes it was the most wonderful sight in the world-all the sky a black canopy with a brilliant light below it, the trees like great red serpents twisting together as they fell, or red hot posts, and in the glare along the line between the night and the fire were the smoke blackened men that made me think of stories I had heard of imps and demona. Fifteen years afterwards I could still see some signs of that fire. The story went about that this fire was started by a party of laborers who were camped on the bluff near the river. But when they first came into that seconded region all the devilment not otherwise accounted for was laid to the Irish then at work on

the Wabash and Erie canal." In like manner all the fires in western Illinois then were "laid to" the Mormons, as those recently in Pennsylvania were to the pareless Hungariana. In 1887 there was a universal drought from the Alleghanies to the Rocky mountains and from the British line to the gulf, while east of the mountains the season was unusually wet; so there were fires in all parts of the central valley. Many columns might be filled with bare mention of socal fires in the southwest, and Kansas pecple freely charged that the Indians set fire to the prairie grass and timber to drive the whites out of Indian territory, Oklahoma being just then subject to a raid. Very few lives were lost, and as drought is the regular autumnal condition in that country, the people were better prepared for fire than those farther east. On the 20th of November, that year, about 9 a. m., Chicago had a "visitation" which reminded many of the accounts given of the celebrated "dark day" in New

an hour. No doubt the wonderful darkness of 1781 in New England was due to the concentration of smoke from vast forest fires in Canada and western New York, as after it cleared away the waters were found covered with sooty film.

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAINS Almost every section of the Alleghany mountains has been subject to terrible fires at various times, as have those of the far west, especially the pine hills of Utah. The sight is sublima, but to the people of the far west it is like the destruction of gold, for



"MY GOD! WILL IT CATCEF".
growths, and the destruction of mountain forests means less snow binding, more avalanches and more uncertainty about the summer's water supply for irrigation. In the Mississippi valley, on the other hand, a very dry season and destructive fires are to some extent compensated for by the destruction of malarial germs and insects hurtist to crops. With average rainfall the next season is generally a very fruitful one. Of the older states it appears that Michigan has suffered most of recent years by forest fires, and as they have begun unusually early this year it would seem that something in the growth of her forests renders her peculiarly liable to this

WASHINGTON IRVING BISHOP.

Something of Interest About the Late

Washington Irving Bishop, the famous "mind reader," who died suddenly at the Lambs' club in New York city recently while performing probably the most difficult feat of "thought transferance" he had ever attempted, has been talked about a great deal during the past ten years. There were many believers in his psychological powers, and also many skeptics, who protested that his "mind reading" was simply "muscle reading," and, with a little practice, could be performed by any one of average intelligen

Charles Montague, a Boston journalist, was one of the first to boldly deny Bishop's powers, and he gave several exhibitions to prove his statements. Henry Guy Carleton, the New York humorist, was also a detractor of Bishop, and for The New York World he wrote several articles which endeavored to reduce Irving's so called psychological powers to the level of muscle reading. Certain it is, however, that neither of these gentlemen ever performed feats equal to those of Bishop. It will be remembered what a sensation

was created when Bishop drove biindfolded

through the streets of Boston and distant part of the city. This same feat he repeated in New York city. He fre-York city. He frequently mystified men of science, both in America and Europe, by his inexplicable feats. He once sued Henry

La bouchere, the As he appeared when at his English journalist, best.

One of the tricks which he often performed while lecturing was to carry a bouquet of the first vigilance committee and one of to some lady in the audience, whose name the vice presidents of the great vigilance envelope and held by a com responsible assistant, also of the audience. One of his most difficult tests was the reading of the number on a bank note in the pocket of some one in the audience.

The performance of these feats always had an injurious effect upon Bishop, as he was naturally a phenomenally nervous man. Af-ter having performed his tricks his pulse often ran as high as 160 beats to the minute, and he not infrequently had cataleptic fits, from one of which, as has been stated in the telegraphic dispatches, he died. He was a wood. It is said that he became addicted to the use of cocaine over a year ago, and while under the influence of the drug he was utterly unmanageable. Many of his matrimonial complications were owing to the looseness of his habita.

The portrait here given shows him as he appeared some two years or more ago, when he was on the lecture platform. He wore no beard at that time, and although nearly 40 years old, his face was exceedingly boyish coking. At the time of his death he wore a full beard, which he kept carefully trimmed.

A SHARP BUNCO MAN.

But Not Too Sharp to Be "Run In" by a Bright Officer of the Law.

Buzzard, professional bunco man, in com-pany with a "pal," recently relieved a coun-tryman named Coffman of \$5,000, at Washington C. H., Ohio, by means of the dexterous fortune on Loia Monter when she was the use of three cards. Then the two drove to rage in San Francisco. His charities kept ington C. H., Ohio, by means of the dexterons Lessburg, and thence to New Vienna. They were followed by Marshal Duley, of the station at New



train to Cincinnati. As the train was due MARSHAL DULEY, in seven minutes, there was just that time between getting away and arrest. Duley stepped up to Carter, covered him with a re-volver and took him prisoner. Carter made a motion to draw a weapon, but the marshal told him that if he did he was a dead man. Carter was searched, and on him was found \$0,125, most of the bills being in the wrappers in which they had been de-livered to Coffman from the bank, and one of them bearing the check mark of the cashler. Carter's confederate, Black, was also found by Duley and arrested; but Black claimed to be a traveling man and declined to acknowledge any acquaintance with Mr. Carter. He found the proprietor of a livery stable who declared that he had been in the place a week. On hearing this plausible tale

Black was released. Carter was taken to Washington and lodged in fail. The farmer who had been robbed identified him, and a value which Black had thrown away was found with the three paste-boards inside with which the man had been

relieved of his money. Reports come from Nashville that the Chi-cago stable, even with the help of McLaugh-lin, will not be as profitable as was uredicted a month asn.

He Was a Pioneer of the Golden State, California.

ONCE HE BECAME A MORMON.

But He Became Disgusted Because Brigham Young Would Not Go to the Pacific Coast, Left the Saints and Prospered. How His Wealth Finally Disappeared.

The news of the death of Samuel Brannan was recently given to the world without ex-citing any great commotion. But there was a time when his decease would have been fol-lowed by columns on columns in the newspapers, especially on the Pacific slope.

He died at Escanaba, San Diego county,

Cal., of inflammation of the bowels Samuel Brannan was a born speculator, who made a princely fortune in ten years, lost it in another decade, and a year ago though then broken in health and shattered in fortune, was confident of winning a second fortune from a huge land grant in Sonora. He was born in Maine, and in Ohlo learned the printer's trade. When he was 19 he bought up his time and plunged into real estate speculation, coming out with no more cash than he went in, but learning valuable lessons in business experience.

Then he strolled about the country as a

journeyman printer. In this way he came in contact with the Mormons, and, being struck with their creed, joined them, and for three years in New York city published their organ, The New York Messenger. It was in 1846 that he conceived the plan of forming a Mormon colony in California, then Mexican territory. He secured the approval of Brigham Young, chartered the ship Brooklyn, fitted her up for passengers, stocked her with food and with all manner of agricultural implements and tools, not forgetting printing press and paper, secured 200 passengers, mostly Mormons, and then set sail for the new western land. It was five months before the party reached

the Sandwich Islands, where they made a brief stay. Then they were transferred to San Francisco. Some stayed in the city, but the majority went into the country, settling at a place called Mormon Island, on the Sac-

DISCUSTED BY YOUNG'S UNPROGRESSIVE SPIRIT.

Brannan showed great administrative ability in his management of this party, but when he got all his colonists well settled he was intensely disgusted to learn that Brigham Young had decided not to move the headquarters of the Latter Day Saints to the Pacific coast. Brannan made a trip to Salt Lake City to see Young, and being unable to shake his decision he returned to San Francisco with his Mormon enthusiasm greatly cooled.

In the following year he wound up the con-

cerns of the Mormon enterprise and began business on his own account. He erected two flour mills in San Francisco, established The Star, the first newspaper published on the coast, started a large country store at Sutter's Fort, on the Sacramento river, and speculated in town lots. The discovery of gold proved the first step to Brannan's great fortune. When he learned the news of Marshall's discovery in the mill race on Sutter's farm he at once bought large quantities of goods in San Francisco and shipped them to his store near the fort. When the gold rush came, a few months afterward, he did an enormous business, his sales amounting to \$150,000 a month, on which the profit was fully three-quarters.

The city of Sacramento, afterward the capital of the state, grew up around Brannan's store. He made thousands by selling off town lots, but he soon found Sacramento too cramped for his speculative ability. He carried on mining at Mormon Island, went into the China trade in San Francisco and bought heavily of real estate in the young for libel, because that often militant gentle-man had branded his feats as mere charlatan-that he purchased, built fine business blocks, opened up streets and took a lively interest in the municipal government. He was president of 1853

As early as 1557 he was recognized as the richest man in California, and he occupied this position as late as 1864. His energy appeared inexhaustible. Now he was devel ing the resources of sugar and fruit plants tions in the Sandwich Islands, and now opening new mines in Nevada and Utah. Every one with a scheme for doveloping the country went to Brannan for aid in those years, just as they went ten years inter to Raiston. MELTING OF A GREAT PORTUNE

For fifteen years Brannan was the leading slender man, but his muscles were as hard as citizen of San Francisco. He was a man of immense force of character and great originality and independence. In every public enterprise he was foremost and his liberality kept pace with his fortune. In an unlucky hour he purchased the Calistoga estate in the Upper Napa valley and started in to make it great public resort.

He built a costly railroad to the place and

spent hundreds of thousands trying to beau-tify what was naturally a sterile and moun-tainous spot. He lost not less than five millions by this venture. Then one after another his mining schemes failed. Like most other his mining schemes failed. Like most of the Argonauts who lived at high pressure and made fortunes in a month, he drank a great deal, and when his fortunes began to great deal, and when his fortunes began to decline he was seldom sober after midday. Thus the man who was noted as an organizer H. H. Martin, alias George Carter, alias and whose shrewdness was proof against all suggested professional bunco man, in comhad his vices, also, and one of the costliest was his passion for actresses. He invished a pace with his extravagances, and it was soon seen that Brannan's prestige and wealth were both on the wane.

It took fewer years to scatter than to gather his imperial fortune. Almost before the public was aware of it, Brannan had dropped out of prominence. The new generation that had come in from the east elbowed him aside, although in his wreck be was greatly superior to them in ability or enterprise. He rior to them in ability or enterprise. He soon lost his grip entirely, and he would have been left stranded without money or friends had it not been for one of his acts of enterprise years before, which now bore fruit in his dark days. He had always been in favor of the Mexican people, and when Maximilian tried to capture the throne, and a large num-ber of Americans, headed by "Duke" Gwin, were scheming to all the foreign usurper, Brannan gave money and soutpoed a regi-ment of troops to aid the Republican cause.

Republics are proverbially ungrateful, but Mexico is somewhat of an exception. She voted Brannan a large sum of money, some-thing over \$100,000, and a grant of land in Sonara. He obtained \$25,000 in 1880, and went to Guaymas to push his scheme for es-the control of the cont went to Guaymas to push his scheme for es-tablishing an American colony on his land. The old speculative instinct seemed for the time to get the better of his dissolute habits, and he entered actively into the scheme of colonization, but when he came to survey his lands he found that the greater part of the grant was ranged ever by the Yaqui Indians,

A FLOATING MISSION. Capt. Henry Bundy and His Work on the Great Lakes.

Capt, Henry Bundy has floated around in a salling vessel on the great lakes during the post fourteen years distributing tracts and Bibles and urging the wild, untamed rousta-bouts, loggers and fishermen to let rum alone tairs a bath occasionally and mend their ways generally. He has been pretty successful, too, in this work of regeneration, and whereas when he first started out on his tour he traveled in a sail boat 19 feet long, he is now having built for the purpose a small steamboat, to be called The Glad Tidings, which will cost \$10,000. The construction of a vessel propelled by steam has grown to be a necessity, as his route has become so large within the past few years that it takes him over twenty months to cover it satisfactorily.

Capit. Bundy says he was converted on vessel that he once owned and sailed the bark Potomac

and was inspired

shortly after his

conversion to

preach the Gospel.



BUNDY AND HIS NEW BOAT. ing nine of his own crew. After these con-versions meetings were held everywhere they went, a bethel flag being hoisted, calling all within sight to attend the meetings, and soon his vessel became known to every one, and was popularly called the gospel ship.

The captain, in the course of his travels, makes frequent stops at the wildest settlements on the lake shores and establishes Sunday schools and supplies them with reading matter, including Bibles and Sunday school was to be the best and secondaried by papers. On his trips he is accompanied by his wife, who officiates as ship's cook, his daughter, now 17 years old, who leads the singing and plays the organ, and his son. The rest of the crew consists of two converted sailors, and on the new steamboat there will

Puzzied The Doctors."

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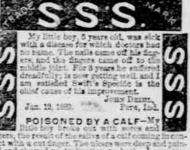
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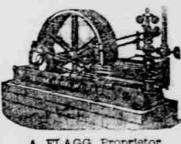
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